

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17, 22-30, and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Conmy et al., U.S. patent 6,101,480. Claims 2, 18-21, and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Conmy et al., U.S. patent 6,101,480.

Claims 14, 25, and 26 have been amended to more clearly state the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims 1-41, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Conmy et al., U.S. patent 6,101,480 discloses a system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users on a network comprised database system that stores a profile for each potential invitee of the system at one or more servers. The invitee profiles comprises user profiles wherein each user profile has information regarding available and unavailable times for that user. The system further comprises request generators located remotely from the server and connected over a network that generates a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees. A busy time determination device gathers the profiles for the one or more requested invitees that are available in the database and determining whether those invitees are available during the time interval requested by the request generating means. If not all invitees are available, a best fit determinating system determines a next best time interval.

Conmy et al. states at column 2, lines 19-33:

If all invitees are not available at the requested time, a variety of

techniques may be used to facilitate the automatic coordination of the meeting. If the proposed date and time is not available for everyone, a dialog box may suggest alternative dates and times during which most, if not all, of the invitees would be available. For example, if the invitees are all available at another time (this may be determined based on the "Busy Time" file) the meeting coordinator automatically may be provided a suggested time for the meeting. If not all invitees are available at anytime (within certain parameters) various routines may be performed automatically by the system to identify a "best fit" time for the meeting. For example, a (weighting) algorithm may be used to find the time that required persons (or rooms or resources) for the meeting are available.

Conmy et al. states at column 2, lines 34-51:

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a system, method and storage medium storing computer implemented code is provided. The system for scheduling time intervals for a plurality of users on a network comprises a database system that stores a profile for each potential invitee of the system at one or more servers. The invitee profiles comprises user profiles wherein each user profile has information regarding available and unavailable times for that user. The system further comprises request generators located remotely from the servers and connected over a network that generate a request for allocation of a time interval for one or more of the plurality of invitees. A busy time determination device gathers the profiles for the one or more requested invitees that are available in the databases and determining whether those invitees are available during the time interval requested by the request generating

means. If not all invitees are available, a best fit determining system determines a next best time interval.

Conmy et al. states at column 4, lines 56-67:

A busy time creating unit 304 is responsive to the request processing unit 302 for generating a busy time file which lists the busy times for all invitees selected in the request and storing that information in database 200. Busy time creating unit 304 passes the busy time file to the fit determination unit 306 to determine whether the requested time complies with the busy time file generated. If not, the system calls on best fit determination unit 308 to determine the next best fit for the event. Additionally, a calendar connect unit 310 may be provided for accessing availability information for the invitees at the various databases 200 across system 50. The calendar connect unit 310 is responsible for obtaining busystime information for users on other servers such as another Notes/Domino Server or on a other calendar system such as Profs or Schedule+.

Conmy et al. states at column 6, lines 34-45:

If there is no such time interval during which all invitees are available, the system proceeds to determine a "best fit" in step 108. The process of step 108 is depicted in FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the first step is that the coordinator is requested to assign a weight for each invitee in step 112. That step may be performed at the time the coordinator is asked to invite the resources or persons or may be delayed until a determination is made as to whether free time for all invitees may be located. Alternatively, default values may be assigned to types of resources. For example, the

chairman and the conference room may be assigned a high weighting whereas other individuals may be assigned lower weighting.

Conmy et al. states at column 6, lines 46-54:

In the next step, step 114, all time intervals within a range of the requested time are assigned a weighted unavailability value that is indicative of its relative unavailability for the proposed event. The weighted value is a function of the type of unavailability associated with a given invitee and the relative importance of the invitee's attendance at the proposed event. These factors are additive--therefore, the higher the weighted value, the less available the time interval will be.

Conmy et al. states at column 7, lines 16-33:

In the next step, steps 116 and 118, this method chooses an available time interval based on the lowest weighted value. A value of zero would mean that everyone invited could attend the proposed event at the suggested time interval. In this embodiment, in step 116, the system selects the time interval with the lowest weighted unavailability value. In step 118, the system then eliminates the invitee or resource with the lowest weighting assigned thereto. That new grouping is then returned to steps 104 and 106 to determine the busy times for the new set of invitees and to compare to determine whether those invitees are available at the requested time. to determine the busy times for those create a new busy time file with the new reduced list of invitees. The process repeats steps 104, 106, and 108 until a time interval is found based on the reduced number of invitees. That time is presented to the coordinator as a proposed alternative time with the "best fit."

Conmy et al. states at column 8, lines 8-25:

FIGS. 5 through 9 present different views of the information retrieved by the system as a result of the search performed by the chairman. In FIG. 5, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the electronic calendar system presents a listing portion 18. Listing portion 18 may provide a list of the invitees sorted by those for whom calendar information cannot be found. The background shading for each of the displayed invitee names may be displayed to match a similar shading in the legend box labeled "No Info." A day planner showing the hours of the proposed event is shown in the box. Other shading/coloring or other graphical indications may be used in the boxes listing the individual names and/or graphical time bar to indicate "Free Time," "Busy Time," "OK," "Conflict," or "Other" status indicators. This feature combined with the ability to generate a variety of views may facilitate the coordination of an event. For example, a recommended event time portion 15 may be presented showing several optional times that have been determined using the best fit routine, for example.

Conmy et al. states at column 9, lines 23-34:

The invention uses reliable, secure Notes routing to deliver invitations to other Notes and Organizer users. According to one embodiment, because the system is connected to intranet and internet, even people who do not use the system of the present invention, for example, Organizer or Notes, may be invited. Event invitees may then accept, decline, delegate a substitute, or re-schedule. Their responses may be automatically forwarded to the coordinator or coordinator. Once an invitee accepts a event invitation, their Organizer calendars are automatically updated as well as the

coordinator's calendar. This enables coordinators to be able to check to see who can make it, who can't, and who's sending an alternate attendee.

In general, known meeting scheduling systems, such as disclosed by Conmy et al., search for available times of participants. Some systems distinguish between required attendees and optional attendees. Such systems do not consider many additional possibilities when trying to schedule a meeting. For example, such possibilities not considered include when someone can fill in for someone else at a meeting or when only one person of a team needs to be there to represent the team. In some cases enough of the required attendees must be present to be considered a functioning body, this may be a majority or some other fractional number, in committees this is often referred to as a quorum. In still other cases, team support should be scheduled to be available for consultation, even though they may not need to be present at the meeting.

There are significant differences between what is disclosed in the Conmy et al. patent and the pending claims 1-41, as presented; and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 because it is axiomatic that for prior art to anticipate under §102 it has to meet every element of the claimed invention (Hybritech Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc., 802 F.2d 1367, 1379, 231 USPQ 81, 90 (Fed. Cir. 1986)). Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims 1-41, as presented, is respectfully requested.

The inquiry as to whether a reference anticipates a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102 must focus on what subject matter is encompassed by the claim and what

subject matter is described by the reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims 1, 30, and 41, as presented, is patentable over the art of record, including the Conmy et al. patent.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams performed by an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program. Claim 1 recites the step of storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; identifying a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data.

For a claim of a patent to be "anticipated" each and every element of that claim must be disclosed in a single prior art reference. First Conmy et al. do not disclose a method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams performed by an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program, as recited in the preamble of claim 1. Further Conmy et al. do not disclose storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data. Further Conmy et al. do not disclose identifying a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data.

Thus, Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Conmy et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Conmy et al. do not disclose, nor remotely suggest any meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams. Applicants acknowledge that Conmy et al. discloses that an invitee can indicate a delegate. However, Conmy et al. fails to disclose, nor remotely suggest the meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data, as taught by Applicants and claimed in independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that weight assigned to an invitee as disclosed by Conmy et al. does not suggest and can not be interpreted as being equivalent to an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data, as taught by Applicants and claimed in Independent claim 1.

Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Conmy et al.

Independent claim 30 recites a meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams comprising: an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; and said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data to identify a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees.

Independent claim 30 is patentable for the same reasons as independent

claim 1.

Conmy et al. do not disclose a meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams, as recited in the preamble of claim 30. Further Conmy et al. do not disclose an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data. Further Conmy et al. do not disclose said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data to identify a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees.

Anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under principles of inherency, each and every element of a claimed invention. Leinoff v. Louis Milona & Sons, Inc., 726 F.2d 734, 220 U.S.P.Q. 845 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Thus, independent claim 30 is patentable over Conmy et al.

Independent claim 30 recites a computer program product for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams, said computer program product including a plurality of computer executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium, wherein said instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of: storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee

attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; calculating a selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data including said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; and setting said selection score to unusable responsive to identifying less than a quorum of available quorum members; identifying an insufficient number of available team members; or identifying an insufficient number of available consulting team members; discarding each said potential time block having said selection score set to unusable; identifying a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling utilizing said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data with said calculated selection score for each said potential time block.

Independent claim 41 is patentable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 30. Further independent claim 41 further defines the invention reciting the steps of calculating a selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data including said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; and setting said selection score to unusable responsive to identifying less than a quorum of available quorum members; identifying an insufficient number of available team members; or identifying an insufficient number of available consulting team members.

Conmy et al. fail to disclose, or remotely suggest the meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data, and further Conmy et al. fail to disclose, or remotely suggest

setting said selection score to unusable responsive to identifying less than a quorum of available quorum members; identifying an insufficient number of available team members; or identifying an insufficient number of available consulting team members as taught by Applicants and claimed in independent claim 41.

Thus, independent claim 41 is patentable over Conmy et al.

Dependent claims 2-29, and 31-40 respectively depend from patentable claims 1, and 30, further defining the invention. Each of the dependent claims 2-29, and 31-40, as presented, is likewise patentable.

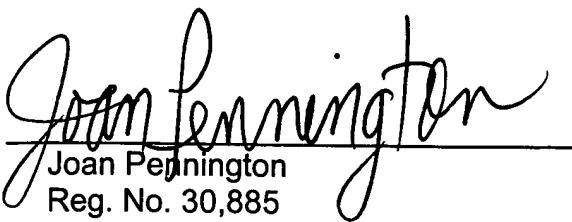
Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 1-18 is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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